

STATE: OKLAHOMA

METHODS OF PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION

The State Plan assures that necessary transportation is available to individuals eligible for Title XIX benefits who are in need of medical services.

1. Categorically Needy and Medically Needy

Payment for Transportation

The agency is responsible for assuring that necessary transportation is available to individuals eligible for Title XIX benefits who are in need of medical services both within and outside the community. Payment must be prior authorized by the local Department of Human Services(DHS) county director. Transportation costs must be for a medically necessary examination or treatment and only when such transportation cannot be made available through the client's own efforts or through community resources, payment through Title XIX may be made for transportation by bus, private automobile, taxi, ambulance, or airplane as outlined below. Individuals transporting more than one authorized recipient, from and to one destination and back, at the same time are reimbursed for only one trip. When transporting more than one authorized recipient, from and to and back to different locations, at the same time reimbursement is made for one round trip.

- A. Authorization for Transportation by Bus of Private Automobile. Transportation by bus may be authorized when it is necessary for an eligible individual to receive treatment in a medical facility. Necessary escort services may be authorized by the Department of Human Services(DHS) social worker when it is determined an escort is required.

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If the client wishes to travel by private car, payment of transportation by private car may be authorized only if: (1) lives in a rural area where needed Medicaid services are not available, or (2) the client must travel outside his/her local community to receive needed Medicaid services, or (3) receives Medicaid services within his/her own community, and it has been documented that transportation cannot be made available through the individual's own efforts or through community volunteer resources, or (4) distances for which reimbursement is claimed may not exceed map mileage. Vicinity travel is entered on travel claims as a separate item and is computed using actual odometer readings. Travel claimed between points not shown on the latest official Transportation Commission road map, will be based on actual odometer readings, or (5) Travel is reimbursed on the basis of the actual number of miles traveled from the transporter's point of origin to the first official call, subsequent official calls, and return to the point of origin. Recipients or transporters returning to a destination other than the original starting point (with local DHS approval) must provide a brief explanation on the travel reimbursement form, or (6) Reimbursement for out-of-state transportation (not to exceed 100 map miles) that is medically necessary and would not require reimbursement for per diem may be authorized when the transportation is deemed in the best interest of the recipient and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Authorization for payment for such travel may be made directly to the client or to another person providing the private transportation for the client. Private transportation is authorized at a mileage rate.

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- B. Authorization for Transportation by Taxi. Taxi services may be authorized only when transportation cannot be arranged through the individual's own efforts or through community resources. Payment is made on the basis of actual expenses. A memo giving detailed explanation of why taxi services had to be used must be attached to the travel reimbursement form and is reimbursed only upon justification as the necessity of their use.
- C. Authorization for Transportation by Ambulance. (ground, air ambulance or helicopter). Transportation by ambulance is compensable for individuals eligible for Title XIX benefits when other available transportation does not meet the medical needs of the individual. Payment is made for ambulance transportation to and/or from a medical facility (a physician's office or clinic is not considered a medical facility) for medical care compensable under Medicaid.
- D. Authorization for Transportation by Airplane. Transportation by airplane may be made when the individual's medical condition is such that transportation out-of-state by a commercial airline is required, approval for airfare must be secured by telephoning the OHCA, Prior Authorization Unit, who make the necessary flight arrangements.
- E. Local Transportation Resources. DHS county office staff coordinate transportation resources when the medicaid recipient is unable to furnish his own local transportation. Resources include but are not limited to volunteer groups, benevolent organizations and common carriers.

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